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A.D. 1870, 13th *DECEMBER.* N° 3262.

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

ALFRED FORD.

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FOMENTING PAD OR POULTICE.

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1871

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## Fomenting Pad or Poultice.

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*(This Invention received Provisional Protection only.)*

**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION** left by Alfred Ford at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 13th December 1870.

I, ALFRED FORD, of 21, Elgin Crescent, in the County of Middlesex,  
5 Surgeon, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for “**AN IMPROVED METHOD OF APPLYING MOISTURE AND HEAT, MEDICATED OR OTHERWISE, TO THE ANIMAL FRAME,**” to be as follows:—

The object of this Invention is to provide an ever ready epithem or fomenting pad, which, whilst it will enable surgeons, nurses, and others  
10 to dispense with the clumsy appliances known as bread and water, linseed meal, and such like poultices, will effectually enable them to apply moisture and heat to the surface of the body, and to retain the same in apposition with such surface for a much longer time than is at present possible, thereby rendering frequently repeated poultices  
15 unnecessary, and supplying an appliance which can be washed as a common sponge, and used over and over again. With this view I take sponge, torn or otherwise reduced into shreds or small pieces, and by enclosing such shreds or pieces in a linen or cotton, or other suitable



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*Ford's Improved Fomenting Pad or Poultice.*

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textile fabric, I form a small pillow, mattress, or pad by passing a few stitches through the same, so as to prevent the shifting of its contents, and I then fix the same by means of adhesive waterproof solution, or by some other suitable means, to a sheet of waterproof cloth of sufficient size to overlap the pillow, mattress, or pad in such a way that when it 5 has been moistened and is in situ shall effectually prevent the air from getting to the pad, and the moisture and heat from getting out of it.

Although I prefer sponge I may occasionally use cotton, wool, paper shavings, or some other absorbing substance, and I may, although I prefer to make my epithem or fomenting pad in the way I have 10 described, sometimes make the waterproof material form one side of the pad itself, instead of the pad being made separately and subsequently affixed to it, as described, or I may otherwise vary the method of making my said epithem, provided always I retain within it an absorbing material capable of holding moisture and heat, a free surface for trans- 15 mitting the same to the part to which it may be applied, and a waterproof surface capable of preventing evaporation, retaining heat, and excluding air, and which by being larger than the pad will possess an overlapping edge capable when moistened of clinging closely to the surface of the body and preventing the ingress of the external air to 20 the edges of the warm and moistened pad, or to the surface to which it is applied.

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